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IV. REMARKS

Claims Status

Claims 1-9, 12, and 15-27 are pending. Claims 1-2, 15-16, and 24-27 are amended.

Objection to Specification

The specification is objected to as lacking support for the weight % of different components as claimed in claims 1-19 and 12-23 because the percent concentrations of different components constituting nutrient medium compositions with respect to the agar described in Tables 1 and 2 are not in the same range as those claimed in Claims 1-9 and 12-23.

Applicant acknowledges and appreciates the sharp eye of the examiner and the uncovering of the inadvertent transposition of the percentage ranges in the claims and percentage ranges set forth in the specification. Applicant confirms that the percentages set forth in the specification at page 3, lines 17 to 19, are correct and has amended the claims to conform to the specification.

Applicant further notes that the percentages of materials utilized in Examples 1 and 2 and which are reported in Tables 1 and 2 conform to the ranges specified on page 3 of the specification.

During the interview the examiner requested an identification of the percentages of sodium pyruvate mentioned in claims 16, 26, 27. These claims have been amended to recite "weight %" to further clarify the amount

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of sodium pyruvate in the composition. Applicant notes that the identification of the percentages as being by weight was also not present in claim 2, which has also now been amended to so recite.

Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Objection to the Claims

Claims 25 has been amended to remove the word "a" on line 4, thus obviating this ground for objection.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C § 112

Claim 24 inadvertently lacked a preamble which has now been added, thus obviating this ground for rejection.

Claim 26 has been amended to specify that the percentage is by weight, thus obviating this ground for rejection. Claim 26 has also been amended to recite that the component is an additional component, thus obviating this ground for rejection.

Claim 27 has been amended to specify that the percentage is by weight, thus obviating this ground for rejection. Claim 26 has also been amended to recite that the component is an additional component, thus obviating this ground for rejection.

Conclusion

Applicant believes that the amendments to the claims and the discussion set forth above place the remaining claims in condition for allowance and therefore respectfully

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request favorable reconsideration by the examiner and early allowance of the claims. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge payment for any fees associated with this communication or credit any over payment to Deposit Account No. 14-1263.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date: December 27, 2007